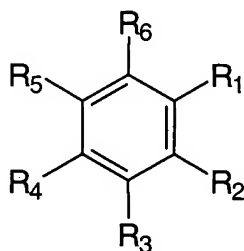


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. **(currently amended)** A method for modifying an amino-terminated surface of a solid support with carboxy groups comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an amino-terminated surface; and
- b) contacting the surface with a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein at least three of R_1 to R_6 are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$, and the remaining R groups are H; or R_1 and R_{26} form a ring; ~~preferably an anhydride;~~

X is a group selected from C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_{10} alkenyl, a C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or a polyethylene glycol chain of the general form $(CH_2-CH_2-O)_m$, wherein m is an integer from 1 to 450, or X is a bond;

Y is a carbonyl group, or a bond;

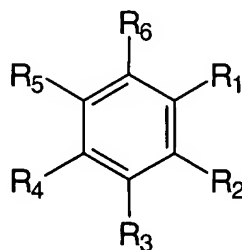
Z is OH or an electron withdrawing group; and

n is an integer from 0 to 10,

under conditions allowing the formation of an amide bond between a carbon of a carboxy group of the compound of the general formula (I) and a nitrogen of the amino group of the solid surface.

2. **(currently amended)** A method for modifying an amino-terminated surface of a solid support with carboxy groups comprising the steps of:

- a) providing an amino-terminated surface; and
- b) contacting the surface with a compound of the general formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

- (i) at least three of R₁ to R₆ are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-$ $(C=O)-X-Y-Z$ and the remaining R groups are H; or
- (ii) R₁ and R₆ are together of formula $-(C=O)-Z'-(C=O)-$ so as to form a ring, at least one of R₂ to R₅ are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$ and the remaining R groups are H;

X is a group selected from C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₁-C₁₀ alkenyl, a C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, or a polyethylene glycol chain of the general form (CH₂-CH₂-O)_m, wherein m is an integer from 1 to 450, or X is a bond;

Y is a carbonyl group, or a bond;

Z is OH or an electron withdrawing group;

Z' is O or S; and

n is an integer from 0 to 10,

under conditions allowing the formation of an amide bond between a carbon of a carboxy group of the compound of the general formula (I) and a nitrogen of the amino group of the solid surface.

3. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the solid support is glass, a polymer, a metal, a semiconductor or an insulator.

4. **(currently amended)** The ~~claim method of any one preceding claim 3~~ wherein the solid support is ~~glass, a polymer, a metal, a semiconductor or an insulator, particularly preferred the surface is~~ has an amine-terminated siloxane surface.

5. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein n=0 ~~for the at least three of R₁ to R₆, and the remaining R groups are H.~~

6. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein n=1 ~~for the at least three of R₁ to R₆, and the remaining groups are H.~~

7. (currently amended) The method of ~~any one of claim~~ 1 to 4, wherein n is an integer from 2 to 5 ~~for each of the at least three of R₁ to R₆, and the remaining groups are H.~~

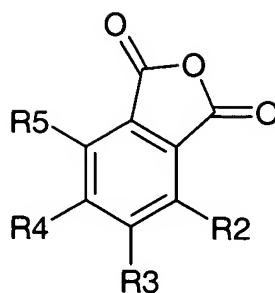
8. (currently amended) The method ~~of as described in any one preceding claim 1~~ wherein ~~three~~ two of R₁ to R₆ are, independent from each other, selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$; one of R₁ to R₆, independent from each other, is selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-OH$; wherein Z is an electron withdrawing group; and the remaining R groups are H.

9. (currently amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 8~~ 1, wherein ~~two~~ one of R₁ to R₆ ~~are~~ is of formula $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$; two of R₁ to R₆, independent from each other, are selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-OH$; and have Z=electron withdrawing group and the remaining R groups are H ~~is of formula $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$ and has Z=OH; or two of R₁ to R₆ are of formula $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$ and have Z=OH and the remaining R-group is of formula $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$ and has Z=electron withdrawing group.~~

10. (currently amended) The method of ~~any one preceding claim 1~~ wherein ~~each of the at least three of R₁ to R₆ are~~ R₁, R₃ and R₅ are independently selected from $-(CH_2)_n-(C=O)-X-Y-Z$.

11. (currently amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 2, wherein Z' is O such that said ring is an anhydride.~~

12. (currently amended) The method ~~of as claimed in claim 1 or claim 11~~ wherein the compound of general formula (I) is of the general formula (II):



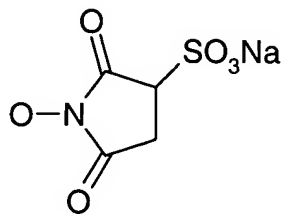
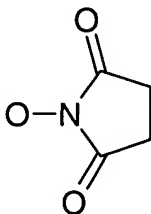
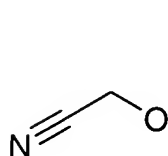
(II)

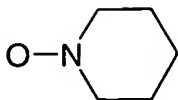
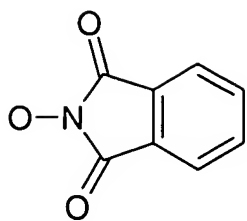
13. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in any one preceding claim 1~~ wherein Z is ~~a leaving~~ an electron withdrawing group, selected so as to make an activated derivative of ~~carboxylic acid.~~

14. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in any one preceding claim 1~~, wherein Z is a halogen atom selected from F, Cl and Br.

15. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 13~~, wherein Z is selected from ~~phenol~~ phenoxy substituted by at least one strong electron withdrawing group, cyanomethyloxy, O-hydroxysuccinimide or its sodium sulfonate derivative NHS or sulfo-NHS, O-hydroxyphthalimide, and O-hydroxypiperidine.

16. **(original)** The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein Z is selected from:





wherein EWG is an electron withdrawing group.

17. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in any of claim~~[[s]] 1 ~~to 10~~, wherein the compound is trimesic acid or a mono-, di-, or tri-succinimidyl ester thereof, or the compound is benzene-1,3,5-triacetic acid or a mono-, di-, or tri- succinimidyl ester thereof.

18. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 17, wherein the compound is trimesic acid or a mono- or di-succinimidyl ester thereof, or the compound is benzene-1,3,5-triacetic acid or a mono- or di-succinimidyl ester thereof.

19. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 17, wherein the compound is a tri-succinimidyl ester of trimesic acid, or the compound is a tri-succinimidyl ester of benzene-1,3,5-triacetic acid.

20. **(currently amended)** The method ~~as claimed in any one of claim~~[[s]] 17 ~~to 19~~, wherein said succinimidyl ester is a substituted succinimidyl ester.

21. **(original)** The method of claim 20 wherein said substituted succinimidyl ester is a sulfonate derivative of succinimide.

22. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~as claimed in any one preceding~~ claim 1 wherein a coupling reagent is present.

23. **(original)** The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coupling reagent comprises an uronium- or phosphonium-based coupling reagent.

24. **(original)** The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the coupling reagent comprises benzotriazol-1-yloxytris (dimethylamino)phosphonium hexafluorophosphate (BOP).

25. **(original)** The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coupling reagent comprises a carbodiimide.

26. **(original)** The method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the carbodiimide is dicyclohexylcarbodiimide, diisopropylcarbodiimide or 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

27. **(original)** The method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the carbodiimide is 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

28. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~as claimed in any one preceding claim 1~~ wherein in step b) an excess of a tertiary base is added.

29. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 28, wherein the tertiary base is diisopropylethylamine, triethylamine, N-ethylmorpholine or N-methylmorpholine.

30. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~as claimed in any one preceding claim 1~~ wherein in step b) additionally hydroxycinnamic acid is added.

31. **(currently amended)** The method of ~~as claimed in any one preceding claim 1~~ wherein in step b) the amount of the compound is limited ~~limiting, preferably such that whereby~~ not all amino groups of the solid support ~~are~~ may be carboxylated.

32. **(currently amended)** A solid surface obtainable by the method ~~according to any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 31~~.

33. **(original)** The solid surface of claim 32 which is a carboxy-terminated solid surface.

34. **(currently amended)** A method for conjugating an amino-group containing substrate to an amino-terminated surface of a solid support comprising:

- i) performing the steps as defined in ~~any of claim[[s]] 1 to 31~~ to obtain a carboxy-terminated surface of a solid support; and
- ii) contacting the amino-group containing substrate with the carboxy-terminated surface of the solid support of step i) under conditions allowing the formation of an amide bond between the carboxy group of the surface of the solid support and the amino group of the amino-group-containing substrate.

35. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 34, wherein in step ii) a coupling reagent as defined in any of claims 22 to 27 is present.

36. **(currently amended)** The method ~~of as claimed in~~ claim 34 ~~or claim 35~~, wherein in step ii) an excess of a tertiary base as defined in either claim 28 or claim 29 may be added to step b) within step i), is present.

37. **(currently amended)** The method ~~as claimed in any one~~ of claim[[s]] 34 ~~to 36~~, wherein the amino group-containing substrate is derived from nucleotides, amino acids, sugars, oligomers or polymers thereof.

38. **(currently amended)** A compound of the general formula (I) as defined in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 21~~.

39. **(currently amended)** A method for preparing the compound according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 1 ~~to 21~~ comprising preparing the compound in a manner known *per se*.